

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00351 081646 Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /123 W

----- 005977

R 081435 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3463

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 351

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN SF WA

SUBJ: SAG OFFICIALS COMMENT ON AFRIKAANS PRESS REACTION
TO SYG REPORT ON NAMIBIA

REF: CAPE TOWN 337

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT TWO AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS, DIE BURGER AND OGGENDBLAD, HAD INDICATED IN ARTICLES LAST WEEK THAT SAG HAD MADE NO CONCESSIONS ON SWA. DIE BURGER QUOTED "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES" AS IMPLYING THAT SELF- DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE WOULD APPLY TO "PEOPLES" OF SWA RATHER THAN TO WHOLE POPULATION OF TERRITORY.

2. SINCE THEN, FONSEC FOURIE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT DIE BURGER STORY "JUST A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE." TODAY A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WENT FURTHER AND TOLD US THAT DIE
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00351 081646 Z

BURGER STORY DID NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL SAG POSITION. HE SAID LANGUAGE OF SAG' S RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND INTIMATED THAT ARTICLES OF THE KIND THAT APPEARED IN DIE BURGER AND OGGENDBLAD WERE AIMED AT ASSUAGING FEELINGS OF NATIONAL PARTY' S RIGHT WING. HE SAID SAG OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION PUBLIC MIGHT GAIN THAT NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT GIVING IN TO UN DEMANDS.

3. DFA OFFICIAL SAID RECENT STATEMENT MADE BY PRIME MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT MAY 2 CONSTITUTES ONLY OFFICIAL COMMENT BY SAG. VORSTER HAD SAID THAT WALDHEIM' S REPORT " MUST BE SEEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE INVITATION TO DR. WALDHEIM, THE SPEECHES OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MYSELF INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF PARLIAMENT, THE STANDPOINT DR. HILGARD MULLER TOOK AT THE UN, THE TALKS WITH DR. ALFRED ESCHER AND THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT FOLLOWED." VORSTER' S MESSAGE SEEMED TO BE THAT PREMATURE AND EMOTIONAL JUDGMENTS SHOULD NOT BE MADE AND THAT SAG KNEW WHAT IT WAS DOING. IT IS EXPECTED THAT NAMIBIA WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WHEN DEBATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS VOTE IS RESUMED IN PARLIAMENT LATER TODAY.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Subject: SAG OFFICIALS COMMENT ON AFRIKAANS PRESS REACTION TO SYG REPORT ON NAMIBIA
TAGS: PFOR, n/a
To: ADDIS ABABA
AF
DURBAN
GABORONE
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
PARIS

PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

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